

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 2, 11-13, 21, and 22 as indicated below in the Listing of Claims. Please cancel claims 5, 6, and 9 as also indicated in the Listing of Claims.

Listing of Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A tamper evident snap-hinged closure, comprising:
 - a body portion that is constructed and arranged to be secured to a container;
 - a lid portion;
 - a hinge portion that is attached to said body portion and said lid portion so as to permit said lid portion to be opened from and closed on to said body portion after said closure is first opened;
 - at least one tamper evident band connecting said body portion and said lid portion, said at least one tamper evident band mechanically securing said lid portion to said body portion at a position that is diametrically opposed from and distal from said hinge portion, said at least one tamper evident band being integral at a first location with said body portion and further being unitary at a second location with said lid portion, whereby said closure may not be opened without defeating said at least one tamper evident band, and wherein at least a portion of said at least one tamper evident band is designed to remain attached to at least one of said body portion and said lid portion upon opening of said closure; and
 - gripping structure defined on at least one of said body portion and said lid portion for facilitating gripping by a consumer in a direction that is necessary to defeat said at least one tamper evident band during opening; wherein said gripping structure comprises a gripping projection that is defined on said lid portion and positioned substantially above said at least one tamper evident band so as to place stress on said tamper evident band when lifted.

2. (Currently amended) A tamper evident snap-hinged closure according to claim 1, wherein said body portion is constructed and arranged to be screwed on to a container, and wherein said body portion further comprises [[a]] at least one tamper evident band that is constructed and arranged to become separated from said body portion when said body portion is unscrewed from the container.

3. (Previously Presented) A tamper evident snap-hinged closure according to claim 1, wherein said hinge portion comprises an articulated hinge that is constructed and arranged to retain said lid portion in a retracted position with respect to said body portion after opening so as to minimize interference with a consumer who is drinking from the container.

4. (Previously Presented) A tamper evident snap-hinged closure according to claim 1, wherein said body portion further comprises a drinking spout that is constructed and arranged to facilitate drinking from the container.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) A tamper evident snap-hinged closure according to claim 6, wherein said gripping projection is shaped and sized to be engaged by a single digit of a consumer.

8. (Previously Presented) A tamper evident snap-hinged closure according to claim 7, wherein said gripping projection is shaped and sized to be engaged by a thumb of a consumer.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) A tamper evident snap-hinged closure according to claim 1, wherein said at least one tamper evident band comprises a plurality of tamper evident band projections.
11. (Currently amended) A tamper evident snap-hinged closure according to claim 1, wherein said at least one tamper evident band is fused to said body portion at said first location.
12. (Currently amended) A tamper evident snap-hinged closure according to claim 11, wherein said at least one tamper evident band is sonically fused to said body portion at said first location.
13. (Currently amended) A tamper evident snap-hinged closure according to claim 1, wherein said at least one tamper evident band comprises an area of predetermined frangibility at which failure is designed to occur during opening.
- 14-20. (Canceled)
21. (Currently amended) A tamper evident snap-hinged closure, comprising:
a body portion that is constructed and arranged to be secured to a container, said body portion comprising a drinking spout that is constructed and arranged to facilitate drinking from the container;
a lid portion;
a hinge portion that is unitary with said body portion and said lid portion so as to permit said lid portion to be opened from and closed on to said body portion in order to selectively open and close said drinking spout after said closure is first opened;
at least one tamper evident band connecting said body portion and said lid portion, said at least one tamper evident band mechanically securing said lid portion to said body portion at a position that is diametrically opposed from and distal from said hinge portion, said at least one tamper evident band being unitary at a first location with said lid portion, and further being integral at a second location with said body portion, whereby said closure may not be opened without defeating said at least one tamper evident band; and

gripping structure defined on at least one of said body portion and said lid portion for facilitating gripping by a consumer in a direction that is necessary to defeat said at least one tamper evident band during opening; wherein said gripping structure comprises a gripping projection that is defined on said lid portion and positioned substantially above said at least one tamper evident band so as to place stress on said at least one tamper evident band when lifted.

22. (Currently Amended) A tamper evident snap-hinged closure, comprising:
a body portion that is constructed and arranged to be secured to a container;
a lid portion;
a hinge portion that is attached to said body portion and said lid portion so as to permit said lid portion to be opened from and closed on to said body portion after said closure is first opened;

at least one tamper evident band connecting said body portion and said lid portion, said at least one tamper evident band mechanically securing said lid portion to said body portion at a position that is diametrically opposed from and distal from said hinge portion, said at least one tamper evident band being integral at a first location with said body portion and further being unitary at a second location with said lid portion, whereby said closure may not be opened without defeating said at least one tamper evident band, and wherein at least a portion of said at least one tamper evident band is designed to remain attached to at least one of said body portion and said lid portion upon opening of said closure; and

gripping structure that is defined on said lid portion for facilitating gripping by a consumer in a direction that is necessary to defeat said at least one tamper evident band during opening; wherein said gripping structure is positioned substantially above said at least one tamper evident band so as to place stress on said at least one tamper evident band when lifted.